

# Community of Christ

## Fairbanks Branch Happenings

### June 29, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Come to Me”

Confess

Open your heart and believe

Make peace

Embrace Him

Two men were involved in a day long wood chopping contest. One man worked furiously at the task, stopping only for a short lunch. The second man took a more leisurely attitude toward the work. He appeared to be resting quite often and took a longer lunchtime. When the contest was over, the first man was very surprised to see that the second man had chopped more wood. “How did you chop more wood than I? Every time I looked over at you, you seemed to be taking a rest.” The second man replied, “What you didn’t notice was that as I rested, I was sharpening my axe as well”

We too need to take time to rest and to sharpen ourselves if we are to be as effective as we can. We cannot continue to go day after day without sleep. When we find ourselves in a difficult situation, we need to be able to step back from this and take a break.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus has come into the world that we might find rest in Him. So often in life we try to do things our own way and we try to do them under our own power. Sometimes our pride gets in the way of asking for help. Other times we don’t realize that we even need help because we believe that we are doing fine as we are.

Jesus came into the world to help all of us, because we all need help. Some of us need food, some of us need shelter, some of us need medical help, others need someone to love them. We have a God who is capable of providing all of these things for us. We all have one need in common however. We are all in need of forgiveness.

Romans 3:23 tells us that, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” We have all done things we know that we shouldn’t have. It is in our nature. We’ve been disobeying since we were little children. God cannot tolerate our sin and it keeps us away from him.

Humans all have another thing in common aside from our need for forgiveness, we are all mortal. No matter how rich or poor, how good or bad we are, we will all one day die. When that day comes we will stand before God and we will be judged according to our relationship with him. It will not be a matter of how many good or bad things we have done. It will be a question of do I have sins that God has not forgiven because I have not asked him to? If we do, we will not be allowed to remain in the presence of God.

Fortunately, there is an easy solution to this problem. God has given all of us the solution to our problem of sin. God sent his son Jesus into the world as a sacrifice for us. In Jesus, God offered each of us rest from our sins, rest from the punishment of our sins. Romans 6:23 tells us that “The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What makes Jesus different from everyone else, why is he a worthy sacrifice for our sins? It is because Jesus came to earth as a man and lived a perfect life. Although he was not deserving of death, he was crucified on a cross. But death could not hold him and he rose from the grave on the third day. Many people were witnesses to this.

So what must be done to accept this gift and to enter into God's rest? Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

To declare that Jesus is Lord means that we live our lives in reflection of this truth. We try to stop doing wrong. We desire to help others out whenever possible. It doesn't mean that we will stop sinning. It doesn't mean that all of the temptations of the world will go away. What it means is that you love God and you will follow his laws and do what he asks of you to the best of your ability.

When Jesus says, come to me all you who are weak and heavy laden it is an invitation for us to cast away the burdens of sin and the troubles of our conscience. Becoming a Christian does not mean that life will suddenly become great. Becoming a Christian does not mean that you will have all of desires fulfilled. Becoming a Christian does not mean that life will get easier.

Becoming a Christian means that we have made peace with God and that our sins are forgiven. It means that when we die, we will not pay the penalty of our sins and instead may be with God in heaven forever. It also means that we have a God in heaven who will listen to our prayers and will answer our requests according to His perfect will.

Jesus offered all of us an invitation to come to him. Tonight I extend that invitation to everyone here. If you have not asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins and you would like to enter into the rest that he is offering, you can come forward and someone will be willing to pray with you. Or if you've heard of Jesus and believed in who he was and is but simply have not lived the life that God has asked, you may come forward and rededicate your life to this purpose.

*Above was excerpted from a sermon delivered at Mainsville United Brethren- Mainsville, Pennsylvania*

Matthew 11:28-30

28"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (NIV)

<sup>28</sup>"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. 29Walk with me and work with me-- watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. 30Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (The Message)

- Summer is upon us and that means **camps and reunions!!** Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.

No Early Morning Worship Service for Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Notice of Cancellation: The Astros' baseball outing schedule for July 7<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

No adult Sunday School on July 10<sup>th</sup> – Presentation by Mark Euritt at 10:00 a.m. instead.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** – We have a special **10:00 am** presentation and opportunity for discussion of the proposed 2006 program for our Mission Center. Mark Euritt will be conducting the session. It promises to be a very interesting and excellent opportunity for us to understand and influence next year's program of action for our Mission Center.

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – 4:00 p.m.** – Lunar Golf at Katy Mills Mall. Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

See the calendar on bulletin board in the fellowship hall for upcoming events at Fairbanks and Mission Center events. June and July have been posted.

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for July through September, 2005. Please check these .

Nursery Schedule:

July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Alex & Sue Turner

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list.

**Calendar & Mission Center News:**

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at [www.coastalbendmc.org](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

**Visit the World Church Webpage and view/listen to events from World Conference.**

**June – July - Camps and Reunions**

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> – David Watson

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Mark Euritt

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

*Martha Romig*